



Dear, Chugach National Forest Planning Staff Officer(s)

This letter is written in behalf of the motorized use closure on the Kenai Peninsula, in particular the Carter/Crescent Lake trail and resounding area. The decision is subject to appeal in accordance with the provision of 36 CFR 217.

I feel that the out right closure of any area or trail to any group is wrong. There is enough time and space that we all should have the opportunities to enjoy the land in whatever manner we enjoy. I feel as though I'm writing this in the end to be able to say I tried.

As Part of (36 CFR 217.9) I understand that the notice of appeal must include sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why this decision should be changed or reversed.

The Carter/Crescent Lakes area has two means of entrance. There is a 6-mile trail on the Cooper Landing side; and a 3-mile trail near Moose Pass. Each of these trails poses hazards for any method of wintertime travel. The trail, which leaves for Cooper Landing at the end of Quarts Creek Road, is hampered by avalanches and not used by many, and I may dare to say any, during the heavy winter months. The trail, which starts near the fish hatchery outside of Moose Pass, is the trail of choice for those wanting to enjoy the area in the winter months. This is a trail that was pushed in by a dozer for mining, and then taken over by the Forest Service. This trail is not that long but has a very steep grade of accent or decent, climbing approximately 2000 feet in 2-miles, not your Sunday morning stroll. As I grew up I Cooper Landing I have done this trail a vast number of time during all parts of the year. I will state that is not any easy trail in the summer.

Closing the Carter/Crescent Lake area to motorized use in the winter will in a sense close the area to all most everyone. There has been many times with even the aid of a snow machine we were unable to make it in due to the heavy snow load and steepness of the trail. The cross-county skiers us the trail snow machines pack down to get in. I have found skiers on the lake who had used a

packed trail to ski in that were exhausted trying to reach the cabin. I took all their gear to the cabin for them, packing a trail across the lake; this couple could not thank us enough. I have enjoyed days of ice fishing with my father and seniors citizens who's only way to enjoy this area is by traveling there by snow machine. What your plan states is that if your old, out of shape, disabled, or even the average American you may not enjoy this area. This is not an area that you can simply ski or dogsled into, This is an advanced trail in the winter with the aid of a packed trail, I will state that closing it to winter motorized use, closes it to 99% of all mid winter use.

I implore you to look again at this one area; I know there could be a plan worked out that leaves all those reasonable feeling good. I will leave you with an example of what could be a simple solution to all interested parties involved. The trail would be closed to motorized use while the snow pack is low, say until January 10th of each year after that time it would be open to motorized use, until the early spring say the a 10th of April. This would leave beautiful springtime weather and a well-packed trail to those who enjoy non-motorized winter recreation.

Thanks for your time, Erik Painter

Erik Painter

10/18/02

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